



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 04/12/2022

**REQUESTER:** Anthony Francisco

**PRESENTER:** Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2122-110: A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY ADOPTING THE UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR PROJECTS FUNDED OR TO BE FUNDED BY REVENUES COLLECTED FROM THE NORMAN FORWARD TEMPORARY SALES TAX

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### **BACKGROUND:**

On August 11, 2015, the Norman City Council adopted Ordinance O-1516-5, which levied a ½ percent “Norman Forward” sales tax for a period of fifteen years, subject to voter approval. The voters of Norman approved the Ordinance on October 13, 2015. The NORMAN FORWARD Sales Tax (NFST) provides funding for a series of quality of life capital projects.

To assist with carrying out the approved NORMAN FORWARD projects in an orderly fashion, the Council appointed a Citizen’s Financial Oversight Board (Resolution R-1516-75, adopted December 22, 2015) and hired a Program Management firm, ADG, Inc. (Contract K-1516-110, approved on February 23, 2016; amended on February 26, 2019) to assist City staff with the implementation of the projects. One of the major tasks performed by ADG is to assist in the preparation of an Implementation Plan document, to help guide the development of the NORMAN FORWARD projects on anticipated schedules and within anticipated budget allocations, and to report on the progress of the individual projects.

The Norman Forward Implementation Plan was originally adopted by the City Council/Norman Municipal Authority on June 28, 2016 (Resolution 1516-130), as recommended by the NORMAN FORWARD Citizen’s Financial Oversight Board (CFOB). The Implementation Plan is intended to be a “living document”; subject to change, periodic review and re-approval as NORMAN FORWARD projects progress. On the recommendation of the CFOB, an amended Implementation Plan was adopted by the NMA/Council October 8, 2019 (Resolution R-1920-44).

## **DISCUSSION:**

The CFOB has reviewed the I-Plan document on a periodic basis and made necessary changes to the Plan. As the NORMAN FORWARD program has progressed, several major projects have been completed or are nearing completion, and some major program changes have been approved by the Council/NMA. This progress and these program changes necessitate another, more substantive update to the Implementation Plan, to be considered for adoption by the City Council and Norman Municipal Authority Trustees. The CFOB considered the attached updated Implementation Plan at its meeting on March 29, 2022 and recommended its adoption by the City Council and NMA.

Some of the significant changes that have been made to the NORMAN FORWARD program that will be incorporated in this updated Implementation Plan include the following:

- The site of the Indoor Aquatic Center and Indoor Multi-Purpose Facility has been identified in the University North Park development (south and east of the corner of Rock Creek Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E.), and the anticipated two projects have been combined under one roof as the “Young Family Athletic Center”, in response to a generous donation from the Young Family Foundation. The scope of the project has also been expanded to include a human performance and health clinic, “NMotion”, sponsored by the Norman Regional Health System. Further supplemental funding for the project has been allocated from the proceeds of the 2021 Norman Municipal Authority Room Tax Revenue Bonds.
- The site of the Senior Citizen’s Center has been identified in the Norman Regional Health System “Porter Wellness Village” (north and west of the corner of Findlay Avenue and Rich Street), and the scope of the project has been expanded from a recreational facility to include wellness facilities. Supplemental funding for the Senior Center project has been allocated from federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery and Economic Security Act reimbursement funds.
- Several projects have been completed, within their budget allocations: the Westwood Tennis Facility; the Andrews Park (“Blake Baldwin”) Skate Park; the Ruby Grant Park, Phase I improvements; several public art installations; the new Park Maintenance facility (a part of the Reaves Park Baseball/Softball Complex project); and several neighborhood and community park improvement projects. Several other projects are under construction or nearing completion.
- The second and third (final) NFST-backed, Norman Municipal Authority revenue bond issuances, to provide up-front funding for many of the Norman Forward projects, have been completed. The lower amount (face value) of the debt issuances and the lower interest rates achieved in the issuances, compared to preliminary projections, has resulted in over \$20 million in savings to the NORMAN FORWARD program.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Joint Resolution be approved, adopting the updated NORMAN FORWARD Implementation Plan.